KHANDURI]: (a) to (c) Some contractors have reported that they have received threats relating to extortion, etc. However, the works are in progress.

(d) Ministry has requested the concerned authority to provide adequate safety measures.

Lack of facilities on National Highway No. 8

4645. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Highway No.8 between Delhi and Jaipur is more prone towards accident due to lack of facilities; and

(b) what steps have been taken to identify the deficiency in road facilities on NH-8 and make it safe and accident free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) There have been no reported accidents due to lack of facilities on National Highway No.8 between Delhi and Jaipur which has been four-laned and is in good traffic-worthy condition.

(b) to enhance safety, various facilities have been provided for the users of this Highway, which include improved intersection layout, service roads, signs markings, safety barriers, bus bays and truck parkings. Besides, Highway Traffic Management System has been provided in the stretch between Kotputli and Amer, with emergency call boxes, CCTV, variable message signs, mobile communications, ambulance, crane and highway patrol.

Upgradation of Bhuj-Khavada-India Bridge-Dharamshala State Highway

4646. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to upgrade the Bhuj-Khavada-India Bridge-Dharamshala State Highway into National Highway is being considered from defence point of view; and

(b) by when the proposal would be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) The proposal would be considered alongwith similar proposals received from other State Governments, after the finalisation of the 10th Five Year Plan and availability of funds keeping in view the revised criteria for declaration of new National Highways, traffic needs and *inter-se* priority.

Action-plan to minimise accidents on highways

4647. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the fatal accidents taken place on the roads during last three years, the figures State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether Government have conducted any study of the loss of human resources on the roads because of the accidents;

(c) whether his Ministry has made any plan to deal with the accidents on the highways;

(d) whether Government have drawn up any contingency plan to minimise accidents on the highways; and

(e) if so, specific details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) The number of total accidents, as reported by the states, during the last three years on the roads State-wise and year-wise is annexed as Statement. (*see* below)

(b) A recent study by Planning Commission puts the social cost of road accident at about 3% of GDP.

(c) to (e) The Government is taking following measures to minimize the accidents on the Highways.

(i) Widening of single lane to 2-lanes.
(ii) Widening of selected 2-lane sections to 4/6-lanes
(iii) Improvement of road geometrics
(iv) Construction of bypasses